ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a distributed resource search mechanism in a peer-to-peer computer network comprising a resource requestor, search brokers, and resource providers. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the distributed search mechanism provides methods: findResourceProviders, registerResourceProvider, GetResourceDescription, findLocalResources, and findResources. In one embodiment of the invention, a search for network resources is performed by registering resource providers with one or more search brokers on the network. When a resource requestor sends a resource query to one or more search broker(s), the search broker, upon receiving the resource query, searches its local database for resource providers that may have information matching the resource query, and sends the resource query to those selected resource providers. The selected resource providers, upon receiving the search query from the search broker, search their local databases for matching resources, and send the search results directly to the resource requestor.

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